



Carl Burton, President

By Carl Burton

AMBER SCHALANSKY-FRETWELL

I first met Amber when she was about 6 weeks old and she was raised by her parents Donna and Erick in a Republican household.

Amber got an early start stuffing campaign envelopes, walking precincts and making phone calls on behalf of Republicans.

Amber's volunteer efforts included design and set-up of the Party's annual booth at the California State Fair. She served as Phone Bank Coordinator for the 1998 and 2000 general elections.

Amber served as Secretary of the Sacramento County Republican Party Central Committee from 2002 to

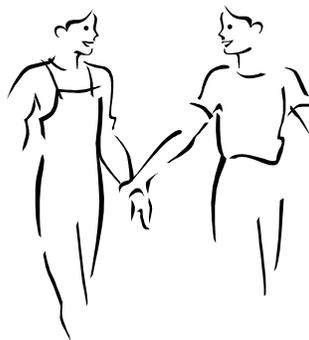
2006. When the party reorganized in 2007 Amber was elected 2nd Vice Chairman in charge of registration for the Party.

The responsibility of the 2nd Vice Chairman, according to County by-laws, is: to "Oversee ongoing voter registration efforts in Sacramento County." Amber had the experience and a successful track record of registering voters in all types of voter registration venues in Sacramento.

She was in the process of making plans and developing procedures to increase Republican voters in the county to help our Republican candidates win office. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts.

Amber resigned from the central committee on April 2, 2007 and I want her to know that I think all the members of the Central Committee will miss her.

Amber always did an excellent job for the Republican Party and I and the Republicans of River City want to wish her well in any upcoming efforts she may pursue.



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HEALTH CARE REFORM DEBATE CAN NOW BEGIN



Honorable Roger Niello

By Assemblyman Roger Niello

California's Health Care system is in need of reform. Choices are limited, costs are too high, and too many are without insurance. And while the reforms have probably been needed for quite some time, the issue has now captured the attention of the Governor and Legislative leaders, as several health care reform ideas have recently been put forth as legislative proposals.

In the Capitol, various reform strategies have emerged. Some plans have been based on a universal coverage, government run health care system that would only serve to increase costs, limit choice, and reduce access has been put forth. Other plans include mandates that increase taxes on small businesses to pay for health care. An alternative reform package, put forth by Assembly Republicans, relies on a series of 19 different health care reform proposals that will ensure that consumers can pick the type of health care coverage they want and need, will reduce health care costs for everyone, and increase access for those without insurance.

In order to maximize choice, reforms need to focus on allowing the marketplace for health care to function without interference from

politicians. Unfortunately, as a direct result of policies enacted by the legislature in the past, many families are stuck with expensive, one-size-fits-all plans that may or may not meet their needs. Reform proposals to give Californians the freedom to choose health savings accounts, allowing individuals to choose their own health insurance benefits, and providing more affordable health care choices by expanding competition are all part of this reform.

As a part of the plan to maximize choice, I am proud to author AB 1644, which will allow out-of-state insurers to offer health benefits plans to Californians and allow in-state insurers to offer the health benefit plans that will enable individuals and business owners to purchase high quality medical coverage at lower prices through more competition and greater choice.

Central to any health care reform plan should be proposals to reduce the overall costs of health care and health insurance. To reduce costs, legislative reforms within the Assembly Republican proposal focus on establishing new insurance pools that allow uninsured workers and small businesses to buy insurance plans at a lower price, and reforms that lower out of pocket costs for those who have no coverage through their employers by expanding state tax deductions for health care expenses.

Finally, access to health care is critical to ensure that those who have no health care coverage are finally covered. Reform proposals in this regard focus on providing tax incentives for doctors to provide more charity care, an expansion of nursing education programs at state colleges and universities to ensure an expanding pool of qualified registered nurses, and reforms to ensure seismic retrofitting of

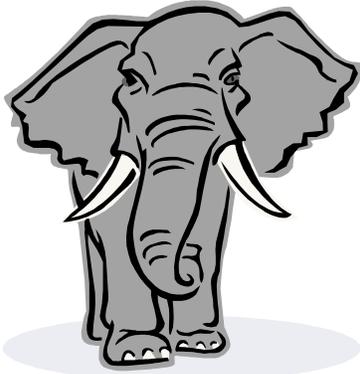
California's hospitals is performed on a timely basis.

Additionally, as a means of increasing access, I have authored Assembly Bill 1643, a bill that will eliminate the barriers in state law that prohibits the establishment of walk-in neighborhood health clinics. These clinics could enable California families to access more convenient health clinics at pharmacies, grocery stores, and shopping malls. Unfortunately, two costly requirements in state laws have essentially prevented the establishment of these clinics. One requires health clinics to be owned and operated by licensed health care professionals, while another requires at least one supervising physician for every 4 nurse practitioners and 2 physician assistants. Many other states have smaller ratios or no ratios at all and in those states, visits to retail clinics can cost half as much as a trip to a doctor's office or emergency room.

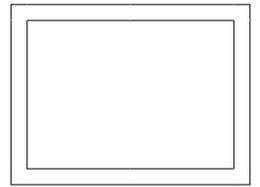
Shaping California's health care future is less about faceless statistics or confusing words only doctors or the insurance industry understand – it's about the real world challenges faced by Californians every day to afford the health care they deserve to keep their families healthy. When it comes to the health care debate in the legislature this year, it seems that there is no shortage of ideas – and that is a good thing. Democrats and Republicans in the legislature as well as the Governor all have varying ideas how to accomplish health care reform. While it will be difficult to agree on a comprehensive package of legislation for California that will truly reform the system, it is essential that we work toward a solution.



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meeting starts at 7:15 PM.



Republicans of River City
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